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**Newsletter**

**Number 05**

**5 March 2010**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

**Thanks**

.. to those parents who attended parent / student / teacher conferences this week.

.. to those parents who accompanied our team to the Zone Swimming Sports this week.

.. to those parents who have picked up the gauntlet to ensure the Trail Bike Ride proceeds.

.. to Sophie, Kennedy & Michaela for doing a great job ringing the interview bells on time.

**People of the week**

.. Teachers, children and parents for input to conferences. Teachers have reported very positive feedback from parents and genuine engagement in the goal setting exercise. It is now our job to do our best to ensure these targets are realised.

.. Paul and Jeremy who have been selected for the Whangarei under 14 cricket rep side to trial for Northland (and these boys are only 11 and 12 respectively).

.. Liam and Bronson for winning the Northland Schools Tennis Doubles Championships and James and Jackson for coming 3<sup>rd</sup>. Well done boys!

..Matthew for teaming up with an unknown Purua student and participating in the Tennis Championships.

..Max who has been selected to represent Northland at the forthcoming NZ Ski Championships in Wanganui in late March. Good Luck.

**Interschool Swimming Championships**

Parents of children who have qualified for the above events (based on their performance at the Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School) will be advised shortly. Please return consents asap. These events take place as follows..

Year 4 - 6 Championship - Tuesday 16 March (at Whangarei Primary School)

Year 7 & 8 Championship - Wednesday 17 March (at Whangarei Intermediate School)

Details to follow next week. Questions please to Mr D.



Michele Blagrove, Sales Consultant  
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### School Swimming Sports

Please accept this cordial invitation to attend our School Swimming Sports on Wednesday 10 March (pp 11.3).

Please also extend this invitation to extended family. The day will roughly unfold as follows ..

10:00 Interval

10:30 Freestyle races

11:25 Backstroke races

12:15 Breaststroke races

12:50 Lunch

1:30 Junior Display

2:10 Relays

2:40 Wrap up / announcements / acknowledgements



Please note these are approximate times. Drinks and sausages will be on sale as part of senior fund-raising. Scotty would still love to hear from someone able to help with the sausage sizzle.

*Thanks to Michelle Blagrove (Maggie Dixons) -  
Sponsors of this year's Swimming Sports.*

### Virtues 2010

You may recall that in 2009 the school focussed on **Self-Management** as our overarching virtue, following with a number of "supporting" (complementary) virtues as the year progressed. Staff have decided (and we know many parents agree) that it might be beneficial to continue (and in fact re-run) these virtues during 2010. This gives us an opportunity to bed down any gains and to build further in this important area. Please find attached an outline of what OUR STUDENTS think good self-management looks like. We would appreciate it if you could go over this with your children and ..

.. highlight its importance in your life

.. talk about where they are effective self-managers

.. identify some areas where they could become even better self-managers

Store this in a safe place (maybe on the fridge at home) and re-visit it from time to time. Please also give us a call if your child has demonstrated gains in this area so that we can put this in the newsletter as an example to us all. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Consents for various events

Some staff have had difficulty recently collecting consents for forthcoming excursions or sporting events. We get these out as early as we can but usually need a response within a week (or sometimes within days). Delays can cost us a lot of time spent searching and tracking these forms as well as deny other children the opportunity to attend / participate if your child will not be attending. Please get all consents back to school as soon as possible. The general newsletter usually advises when an event is coming up and sometimes even when consents will be issued and so you will know when to ask your children for these. Your help with this would be very much appreciated and will save organising teachers so much time. A special thanks to parents who so willingly give their time to assist with these events.

### Indicator Reports

It is our strong recommendation that you hold on to your child(ren)s indicator report(s) and that you use these as a point of reference over the next couple of terms. These lists identify areas of priority for your child and you might find opportunities to work in these areas at home.

### International Schools English and Maths Competitions

A letter calling for expressions of interest in the above competitions was sent home last week to those children who participated in earlier competitions and to those who expressed interest. If you did not receive this letter and would like one please phone the school office on Monday morning.

### Year 7 and 8 Vaccinations

On 12 March meetings will be held in the school hall (for year 7 and 8 children and their parents) to discuss forthcoming vaccinations as follows..

2:30 PM - Year 7 boys and girls

2:45 PM - Year 8 girls (HPV vaccination)

Our public health nurse will be on hand to answer any questions.

### **Year 7 and 8 Triathlon**

If your child will be participating in this event (Tuesday 16 March) please ensure consents are returned to Mr Delemare next week. Thank you to those parents who will be supporting our teams.

### **School Hats**

It has been noted that some parents are regularly having to replace their children's sun hats. Please check the names on your children's hats and ask them to return to their rightful owner where necessary. Thanks.

### **Pool Keys**

Those who held a swimming pool key last year in anticipation of using again this year received an invoice three weeks back. **Please send the money in asap or return your key please. Many thanks.**

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

Please check your children's hair weekly so that we stay on top of this problem.

### **Year 3 and 4 Camp**

Early notice for those arranging annual leave that the year 4 camp will be held at Marsden Bay 30 November to 3 December. Year 3's will join camp for 2 and 3 December. Hopefully some of you can pencil in these dates.

### **Reminder - ASB School Banking**

The school still collects children's banking deposits through the Kashin box in the office area. The deposit box will be cleared weekly. Extra deposit envelopes are available at the office. Application forms for the school banking service are also available at the office.

### **Bible in Schools programme**

If you are able to dedicate 30 minutes or so on a Monday morning to join the Bible in Schools teaching team please contact Carina Wykes on 435 0911. Carina is just a couple of teachers short and so please give her a call if you able to join her team. This programme may not proceed without further offers of help.

### **PTA Meeting**

This will be held on Monday 15 March at 7.00pm in the staff room. All are welcome.

### **Trail Bike - Raffle**

The dedicated folk organising this event will run their customary raffle to assist in meeting costs - maximising funds for the school. The intention is to send a raffle book home to each family. If you do NOT want your child to bring home a raffle book, please phone the school office on Monday. Thanks to Sue and Simon Mehrtens and Sharon Smith for organising this.



### **Community Notices**

**Wanted** - 4 bdrm house wanted for rent. Close to Matarau School. References available. Ph 09 4338488 or 02102756490

**For Sale** - York Fitness Treadmill. \$1,000. Ph 433 5885

**For Sale** - Quality Firewood. Ph Neroli 433 8185.

**Lighthouse** - Preteens with a Mission - Youth Group for 2010 will be running in terms 2 and 3. First event will be advertised early term 2. Any enquiries phone Jennie 435 3890.

**Day out with Thomas** - Glenbrook Vintage Railway, 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> March. 10.00am - 4.00pm. Train rides, activities, sausage sizzle. For more info ph 09 636 9361.

**Allens Kids Triathlon** - Sunday 14 March, Onerahi. Enter Online now. [www.allens.co.nz](http://www.allens.co.nz)

**Tall Poppies Seminars** - for Gifted and Talented kids. Auckland 7 to 9 April. Visit [www.holidayseminars.co.nz](http://www.holidayseminars.co.nz)

### **Guitar Lessons**

There are two vacancies available on Wednesday afternoon (in the Old School Room - by the upper carpark). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email [killalea@ihug.co.nz](mailto:killalea@ihug.co.nz).

## Newsletter

Remember to ask your child for the newsletter each Friday afternoon. Our newsletter (along with archived copies) can also be accessed on our website **or emailed to you on request (just contact Helen to arrange this)**. If you have questions from time to time just give us a call - we NEVER mind answering these. This week some families missed (or nearly missed) a number of events which had been mentioned in multiple newsletters.

## Board of Trustees Election

The closing date for nominations is 23 April and polling day is 7 May. If interested in serving on our board and wanting to discuss with someone please contact Kevin, an existing Board Member or Donna Cates (our returning officer).

Please note that both parents of an enrolled child are entitled to vote in a board election - even in the event that those parents have separated. To see if our electoral roll contains all of the necessary details (including addresses) please phone Donna Cates at school.

## Board of Trustee Nominations

We are now calling for nominees. **Nomination forms will be posted early next week and need to be returned to school preferably by 19 March** (although the official closing date for nominations remains 23 April). This earlier date enables us to get some biographical details distributed to parents.

It is important that we continue the legacy of high quality governance that is a hallmark of previous boards and so please give careful thought to who you would like to represent you (and your children) on the board. If you do not receive your nomination form in the post or if your address details are insufficient please contact Donna asap.

## Issues of dispute between children

From time to time children become involved in disputes with other children. This is a natural, in fact necessary, part of growing up. When this happens it is very important that you ask your child to see a staff member (or you can give us a quiet phone call) - especially where you suspect they may not have the resources / resilience to handle this matter themselves. Schools have the advantage of greater objectivity, a more ready access to the facts, and the ability to monitor situations moving forward. **On rare occasions we have had situations where a parent has confronted another person's child to try to sort an issue that has happened to their child at school.** This should not happen. It is essential that parents refrain from dealing with other people's children. It is the responsibility of the school to investigate matters involving children at school and all such matters must be referred to your child's teacher or to me personally. We will take it from there.

## Final thought

On behalf of teachers I would like to sincerely thank parents for their contribution to conferences this week. Our Learner Journey Sheets and Indicator Reports help us to meet requirements under the new National Standards. More specifically schools must report on specific areas of strength and weakness in maths, reading and writing and involve children and their families in setting targets moving forward. Teachers have reported back on the overwhelmingly positive engagement with parents (and children) during this exercise. This is not easy as new processes can be a bit confusing to start with. We have identified some areas we can improve including matching indicator levels with ages / years of schooling as well as sending forms out at least a week before interviews. Thanks for the team work. It is now our job to work diligently with you and your child as they pursue their goals.

Regards  
Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

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